

IN THE CLAIMS:

We Claim:

- 5 1. In an electronic device having a processor and a computer readable memory coupled to each other, a method of configuring a communication device, the method comprising the steps of:
- a) receiving a request to configure the communication device to run a communication application, the communication device having a plurality of function blocks with a fixed portion of hardware and a flexible portion of hardware, the same plurality of
10 function blocks capable of operating a plurality of communication applications;
- b) evaluating a capability of the fixed portion and the flexible portion of hardware of the communication device for implementing the communication application;
- c) transmitting configuration information only for the flexible portion of hardware of
15 the communication device to enable it to operate the communication application; and
- d) transmitting an identification of the communication application to the communication device.
2. The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the configuration information is hardware
20 configuration parameters.
3. The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
- e) receiving a request to configure the device for a plurality of applications; and
25 f) repeating steps b) through d) for each of the plurality of communication applications.
4. The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
- 30 e) receiving a request to change the application of the communication device to a new application; and
- f) repeating steps b) through d) for the new application.

5. The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the method further comprises the step of:
e) evaluating whether a subscription for the requested application exists.

6. The method recited in Claim 1 wherein only configuration information for the
5 functional blocks required for the application is transmitted.

7. The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the application is enhanced quality of
service (QOS).

10 8. The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the quality of service determines the
amount of transmit diversity.

9. The method recited in Claim 1 wherein the quality of service determines the
amount of bandwidth available for communication (or the data rate) with the
communication device.

10. In an electronic device having a processor and a computer readable memory
coupled to each other, a method of varying the quality of service provided to a wireless
communication device, the method comprising the steps of:

20 a) receiving a request for cost of a quality of service option for a wireless
communication device, the communication device having a plurality of function blocks with
a fixed portion of hardware and a flexible portion of hardware, the same plurality of
function blocks capable of operating a plurality of services;

b) transmitting information regarding the quality of service and its cost to a user;

25 c) receiving from the wireless communication device, a request to obtain the quality
of service at the cost; and

d) transmitting configuration information to the communication device to enable it
to operate the quality of service, the configuration information being limited to the flexible
portion of hardware of the communication device to enable it to operate the communication
30 application.

11. The method recited in Claim 10 further comprising the step of:

e) generating a reduced cost for quality of service if resources related to the quality of service have not been consumed; and

f) repeating steps b) through d) for the reduced cost.

5 12. The method recited in Claim 10 further comprising the step of:

e) billing the user for the quality of service; and

f) downgrading the quality of service when the subscription expires.

13. The electronic device recited in Claim 22 further comprising the step of:

10 e) receiving a bid from the user for the quality of service wherein the bid is lower than the cost; and

f) providing the quality of service if resources for the quality of service exist for the price of the bid.

15 14. An electronic device for transmitting a configuration for a configurable communication device, the electronic device comprising:

a computer readable memory;

20 a processor coupled to the computer readable memory, the computer readable memory containing instructions and data, that when executed on the processor, implement a method for transmitting a configuration for the configurable communication device, the method comprising the steps of:

25 a) receiving a request to configure the communication device to run a communication application, the communication device having a plurality of function blocks with a fixed portion of hardware and a flexible portion of hardware, the same plurality of function blocks capable of operating a plurality of communication applications;

b) evaluating a capability of the fixed portion and the flexible portion of hardware of the communication device for implementing the communication application;

30 c) transmitting configuration information only for the flexible portion of hardware of the communication device to enable it to operate the communication application; and

d) transmitting an identification of the communication application to the communication device.

15. The electronic device recited Claim 14 wherein the configuration information is hardware configuration parameters.

16. The electronic device recited in Claim 14 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

e) receiving a request to configure the device for a plurality of applications;

and

f) repeating steps b) through d) for each of the plurality of communication applications.

17. The electronic device recited in Claim 14 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

e) receiving a request to change the application of the communication device to a new application; and

f) repeating steps b) through d) for the new application.

18. The electronic device recited in Claim 14 wherein the method further comprises the step of:

e) evaluating whether a subscription for the requested application exists.

19. The electronic device recited in Claim 14 wherein only configuration information for the functional blocks required for the application is transmitted.

20. The electronic device recited in Claim 14 wherein the application is enhanced quality of service (QOS).

21. The electronic device recited in Claim 14 wherein the quality of service determines the amount of transmit diversity.

22. The electronic device recited in Claim 14 wherein the quality of service determines the amount of bandwidth available for communication (or the data rate) with the communication device.

23. An electronic device for transmitting a configuration for a configurable communication device, the electronic device comprising:

a computer readable memory;

a processor coupled to the computer readable memory, the computer readable

5 memory containing instructions and data, that when executed on the processor, implement a method of varying the quality of service provided to a wireless communication device, the method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a request for cost of a quality of service option for a wireless communication device, the communication device having a plurality of function blocks with
10 a fixed portion of hardware and a flexible portion of hardware, the same plurality of function blocks capable of operating a plurality of services;

b) transmitting information regarding the quality of service and its cost to a user;

c) receiving from the wireless communication device, a request to obtain the
15 quality of service at the cost; and

d) transmitting configuration information to the communication device to enable it to operate the quality of service, the configuration information being limited to the flexible portion of hardware of the communication device to enable it to operate the communication application.

20 24. The electronic device recited in Claim 23 further comprising the step of:

e) generating a reduced cost for quality of service if resources related to the quality of service have not been consumed; and

f) repeating steps b) through d) for the reduced cost.

25 25. The electronic device recited in Claim 23 further comprising the step of:

e) billing the user for the quality of service; and

f) downgrading the quality of service when the subscription expires.

30 26. The electronic device recited in Claim 23 further comprising the step of:

e) receiving a bid from the user for the quality of service wherein the bid is lower than the cost; and

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